

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## PATENTS

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed June 28, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group XI which encompasses Claims 46 and 48-60, drawn to a method of stabilizing pluripotent stem cells by contacting the pluripotent stem cells with an inhibitor of at least one component of the gamma secretase complex. Applicants further provisionally elect with traverse the species DAPT, an inhibitor of the gamma secretase complex.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed on the basis that the eleven groups of claims relate to a single general inventive concept because they share a corresponding special technical feature. MPEP § 1893.03(d). The Office Action asserted that the groups lack the same or corresponding special technical feature because each is directed to a distinct goal or a materially distinct material/step wherein a distinct composition and/or technical feature is employed for achieving an intended goal. In particular, the Office Action asserted that the technical feature of each group of composition claims was the particular inhibitor of the gamma secretase complex that was employed in those claims. The Office Action further asserted that the special technical feature of each of the method groups is directed to a distinct goal and/or the use

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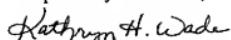
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of a distinct material as claimed in a corresponding product claimed group. Therefore, the Office Action concluded that the groups do not share a special technical feature that is a contribution over the prior art. Applicants respectfully submit that the common technical feature shared by each of the groups is the use of an inhibitor of the gamma-secretase complex. Accordingly, as each of the groups of claims share a technical feature that is a contribution over the prior art, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

The requirement for the election of a single species of Notch inhibitor in Claim 60 to prosecute in the present application also is respectfully traversed. The traversal is on the basis that the examination of the claims as they relate to each of the claimed inhibitors of Notch signaling would not place a serious burden on the Patent Office because of their close technological relationship and sufficiently small number. MPEP § 803.02. In the alternative, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim should at least be examined with respect to other non-transition state analogs such as compound E, in addition to DAPT. *See* p. 12, para. [040].

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group XI which encompasses Claims 46 and 48-60, drawn to a method of stabilizing pluripotent stem cells by contacting the pluripotent stem cells with an inhibitor of at least one component of the gamma secretase complex. Applicants further provisionally elect with traverse the species DAPT. The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement mailed June 28, 2007. If there are any issues which can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (404) 853-8000. No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-5029 (Reference No. 18377-0063).

Respectfully submitted,



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